

PODICIPES CRISTATUS (Linn.).

Several pairs of Great Crested Grebes frequented the Étang d'Entressen, in the central portion of the Crau, which afforded a suitable haunt, the water being deep and fringed here and there with reed-beds.

XVI.—*On some new and little-known Species of Birds from Formosa.* By HENRY SEEBOHM.

(Plate VI.)

MR. HOLST has been a year or more in the island of Formosa, and so long as he remained near the coast his collections contained nothing of special interest. He has not yet succeeded in ascending Mount Morrison, but a small collection from the outlying spurs of the range may be regarded as the first-fruits of a rich harvest which awaits any ornithologist who may make a collection in the above island at a few thousand feet above sea-level.

PARUS HOLSTI, sp. nov. (Plate VI.)

I have great pleasure in naming this very handsome and distinct new species of Tit after its discoverer. It belongs to the subgenus *Machlolophus*, with a conspicuous crest and a white nuchal spot. In addition to the white nuchal patch, the greater wing-coverts and tertials are tipped with white, the outer web of the outermost tail-feather on each side is white, and all the rectrices are tipped with white. The upper parts are greenish metallic blue, duller and bluer on the quills. The whole of the underparts and the lores and ear-coverts are bright yellow.

Length of wing 2·9 inches, tail 2·1, culmen 0·4, tarsus 0·8. Bill black, legs and feet pale greyish blue, irides brown.

RALLINA FORMOSANA, sp. nov.

This apparently new species of Rail was procured on the 15th November, and may possibly be not quite adult. The upper parts are dark chocolate-brown; the throat—which is slightly damaged—may be whitish; the breast-feathers are

brown, with chestnut centres; the rest of the underparts are black barred with white; there are traces of white spots on the basal third of the outer webs of the primaries, and imperfect white bars across the inner webs of both the primaries and secondaries. Length of wing 5·1 inches, tail 2·2, culmen 1·15, tarsus 1·75, middle toe and claw 1·7. The first primary is about as long as the secondaries and about 1·25 inch shorter than the fourth, which is the longest.

Upper mandible dark grey, lower mandible bluish grey, shading into yellowish green on the gonys; legs and feet greyish black; orbital ring and irides yellow.

No species of *Rallina* has been known to occur in China or Japan, but a species has been described from one of the Loo-choo Islands under the name of *Euryzona sepiaria* (Stejneger, Proc. United States Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 395). This appears to be a larger bird with a paler crown, and much less white on the wings. The next nearest species, geographically, is *Rallina euryzonoides*, from the Philippine Islands. This species is about the same size as the Formosan bird, and has about the same amount of white on the quills; but this character varies considerably, as some examples from Luzon have white on both webs, like the Formosan bird, whilst others have the white restricted to the inner webs. The birds from the Philippine Islands have a chestnut head when adult, and it is possible that such may be the case with the Formosan bird, though there is not the slightest appearance of anything of the kind. Compared with immature examples of *Rallina euryzonoides* or *Rallina superciliaris* from Malacca, the upper parts of the Formosan bird are much darker.

I am afraid the genus *Rallina* is a very bad one, and ought not to be regarded as distinct from the genus *Hypotaenidia*. The latest authority on the subject has certainly made a curious mistake in the characters which are supposed to separate them (Sharpe, 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum,' xxiii. pp. 2 & 3). In both these supposed genera the culmen is decidedly shorter than the middle toe and claw.

MERULA ALBICEPS.

Fresh examples shot in the middle of November are much handsomer birds than those obtained by Swinhoe in the middle of March, and appear to be more mature. Instead of the upper parts below the neck being dark brown they are jet-black, and the black meets across the upper breast below the white throat. In the fully adult female the rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail are dark slate-grey.

PITTA NYMPHA.

Mr. Holst obtained a female with half-developed eggs in the ovary on the 10th of May. Swinhoe obtained the type of *Pitta oreas* on the 16th of May. Mr. Holst remarks that it is found sparingly on the smaller mountains of South-west Formosa. Swinhoe obtained it from the mountains both of North and South Formosa. Mr. Holst remarks that upon dissecting it he found that it had been feeding upon beetles and small shells. Bill dark grey, paler towards the tip. Legs and feet greyish white. Irides dark brown, pupil blue. *Pitta bertæ*, from Northern Borneo, appears to me to be the same species.

Bill dark grey, paler at the tip; legs and feet greyish white, slightly brownish; orbital ring black; irides dark brown.

SCOPS HAMBROECKI.

This is a very interesting example, inasmuch as the type procured by Swinhoe in North Formosa nearly thirty years ago has hitherto been the only example known, and, being in the Norwich Museum, is not conveniently situated for students in London. It is a small bird (wing 5·6 inches long), with a very conspicuous narrow white collar round the hind neck.

XVII.—*Field-Notes on the Birds of the Estancia Sta. Elena, Argentine Republic**. By A. H. HOLLAND. *With Remarks by P. L. SCLATER.*

[MR. HOLLAND sends us the following field-notes, chiefly relating to species recently noticed at his estancia in the

* For previous paper see 'The Ibis,' 1893, p. 483.

